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**TOURISM MINISTER ANNOUNCES LANDMARK BARBadian
RECRUITMENT DRIVE WITH ROYAL CARIBBEAN GROUP**

- Nearly 2,000 jobs on the cards for Barbadians -

Miami, Florida. Almost 2,000 jobs will be up for grabs for Barbadians very soon. The announcement was made on Monday by Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Senator the Hon. Lisa Cummins, during a recent press conference at Seatrade Cruise Global Conference in Miami, Florida.

While at the cruise conference, Minister Cummins signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Royal Caribbean Group that will generate opportunities for high-quality employment in the local tourism industry. The MOU, signed Monday, April 25, 2022, establishes a partnership between the Government of Barbados and RCCL, where the two entities will work together to create cruise-related job opportunities for Barbadians.

The MOU comes as a result of a series of negotiations between Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. and RCCL, with the intent of building on the two entities' longstanding partnership in a way that brings tangible benefits to all Barbadians.

Speaking about the partnership, Minister Cummins noted that “This MOU is timely as it feeds into Barbados’ greater purpose for tourism. Creating jobs for Barbadians in the tourism industry bodes well for the destination as we seek to take the country’s tourism industry forward in a sustainable way.”

“During COVID, we saw how greatly Barbadian jobs were impacted by the loss of tourism, and the resulting impact on individual lives and livelihoods. Royal Caribbean has been a valued partner for many years, and we are pleased to be able to build on that relationship to bring new opportunities for Barbadians to find employment,” Cummins said.

Royal Caribbean will staff several ships homeporting in the Caribbean including *Grandeur of the Seas*, *Independence of the Seas* and *Mariner of the Seas*.

Royal Caribbean International President and CEO, Michael Bayley, commented on the cruise line’s positive relationship with Barbados, noting “We would like to thank Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley for her vision and leadership as we work together with our partners in Barbados to create opportunities for economic empowerment for Barbadians.

“Royal Caribbean, we understand how challenging it has been to rebound from the loss of tourism and there is no better way to address impacts to the Barbadian economy than finding mutually beneficial job fulfillment and job growth opportunities for Royal Caribbean and Barbadians,” he said.

“The tourism industry has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and close collaboration and partnership with our destination partners are vital for us all to come back better than before. I am excited to join the Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Senator Lisa Cummins, to share our plans for job growth in Barbados,” Bayley added.

National job fair

Within the coming weeks, the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI) will partner with Royal Caribbean to host a national job fair to begin the recruitment process in time for the upcoming

winter season. All interested persons should keep an eye out for an official press release that will announce the upcoming date of this event.

Chair of the Board of Directors of the BTMI and BTPA, Shelly Williams, noted that the partnership aligns with Tourism's mandate for creating opportunities for educating, retooling and upskilling for all Barbadians by 2030. "This recruitment effort is open to all Barbadians and enables them to learn new skills, and transfer the knowledge they gain during this experience for the betterment of Barbados' service industries overall," Williams said.

A range of jobs will be available across a number of disciplines from engineers to chefs, technicians, seamen, housekeepers and more. A full list of positions will be made available to the public ahead of the job fair.

Seatrade Cruise Global 2022

The announcement is a positive start to the annual Seatrade Cruise Global Conference 2022, where a Barbados delegation, led by Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Senator the Hon. Lisa Cummins is present in Miami to promote Barbados to global cruise industry partners.

Cruise development is a major focus for Barbados, especially as the country moves to establish a cruise presence in Miami and foster closer relationships with decision-makers like Royal Caribbean. The expanded office will give Barbados greater access to the cruise centre of the world, and enable greater collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and Barbados' external agencies in North America.

During the coming days, tourism officials and local tourism service providers will meet with key industry players to discuss new business opportunities for Barbados, and establish new partnerships.

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About Barbados

The island of Barbados offers a unique Caribbean experience steeped in rich history and colourful culture, and rooted in remarkable landscapes. Barbados is the home of two of the three remaining Jacobean Mansions left in the Western hemisphere, as well as fully functional rum distilleries. In fact, this island is known as the birthplace of rum, commercially producing and bottling the spirit since the 1700s. Each year, Barbados hosts several world-class events including the annual Barbados Food and Rum Festival; the annual Barbados Reggae Festival; and the annual Crop Over Festival, where celebrities such as Lewis Hamilton and its very own Rihanna are often spotted. Accommodations are wide and varied, ranging from picturesque plantation houses and villas to quaint bed and breakfast gems; prestigious international chains; and award-winning five-diamond resorts. In 2018, Barbados' accommodation sector captured 13 awards in the Top Hotels Overall, Luxury, All-Inclusive, Small, Best Service, Bargain, and Romance categories of the 'Traveler's Choice Awards'. And getting to paradise is a breeze: the Grantley Adams International Airport offers plenty non-stop and direct services from a growing number of U.S., U.K., Canadian, Caribbean, European, and Latin American gateways, making Barbados the true gateway to the Eastern Caribbean. Visit Barbados and experience why for two years in a row it won the prestigious *Star Winter Sun Destination Award* at the 'Travel Bulletin Star Awards' in 2017 and 2018. For more information on travel to Barbados, visit www.visitbarbados.org, follow on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VisitBarbados>, and via Twitter [@Barbados](#).